

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01937 241204Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 /083 W

----- 054984

R 241146Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3548

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1937

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SY

SUBJ: SOVIET COMMENT ON SYRO-IRAQI CONFRONTATION

1. IN COMMENT TO AMBASSADOR AND TWO OTHER WESTERN DIPLOMATS MAY 21, SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KRPIVINE STATED THAT IRAQ HAD CLEARLY INSTIGATED CURRENT CONFRONTATION WITH SYRIA. RE MILITARY ASPECT OF CONFRONTATION, KRPIVINE STATED HE HAD BEEN AT PALMYRA IN CAR BEHIND THAT US EMBOFF BEIRUT LAST SUNDAY AND HAD TO WAIT OUT THREE-HOUR PASSAGE OF SYRIAN TANK CONVOY HEADING EAST. ASKED IF HE HAD ANY NEWS RE SIMILAR MOVEMENT ON IRAQI SIDE OF BORDER KRPIVINE SAID HE HAD NONE. HE TENDED DOWNPLAY LIKELIHOOD OF MILITARY CLASHES BUT ALLUDED TO HIS UNCERTAINTY GIVEN "PECULIAR NATIONAL CHARACTER OF IRAQIS."

2. COMMENT: KRPIVINE SPEAKS ACCENTED BUT HIGHLY SERVICEABLE ENGLISH. ABOVE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE AT DIPLOMATIC CORPS FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR, CONFIDENTIAL

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STAGED AS USUAL AT SOVIET EMBASSY WHOSE AMBASSADOR

MUKHIDINOV IS DEAN OF THE CORPS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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